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LINCOLN WARE RIDDLE, LICHENIST

BRUCE FINK

Doctor Lincoln Ware Riddle was born at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, October 17, 1880, and died at his home, 123 Walker Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, January 16, 1921. He was fitted for college at Roxbury Latin School, and a private school in Boston. While at the former school he became interested in botany and decided to become a botanist. He later entered Harvard University and graduated from there in 1902. He received the doctorate in philosophy at his Alma Mater four years later and went to Wellesley College, as instructor in botany. He became a full professor in 1917. A year's leave of absence in 1913 he spent in Europe, working with several eminent men and in a number of the largest herbaria. In 1919, he was called to Harvard as assistant professor of cryptogamic botany. Doctor Riddle was vice-president of the Sullivant Moss Society in 1920. He became associate editor ot the Bryologist in 1911 and remained on the board of editors until the time of his death.

In December of Doctor Riddle's first year at Wellesley, I first learned of him through a letter of inquiry regarding some matters lichenological. With this letter was begun a correspondence from which more than 40 of his letters are still on file in my office. In these letters are freely discussed the various plans of the young, well trained, and rapidly growing lichenist. Had I nothing more than this correspondence, which closed with his last illness, I would feel so well acquainted with the man and his work that I should not hesitate to make an estimate of his character and ability. As I review the letters, each one bears evidence of the courtesy, the fine sense of propriety, the painstaking care, and the good training and ability of the man who wrote them.

The first letter contains a statement of an interest in lichens extending back through several years and an expression of the hope that, with the collections of Clara E. Cummings at hand and the great collections at Harvard near by, he might be able to do some valuable work on the lichens. The early letters were for most part modest solicitations of help and advice, and there was never a failure to express the keenest appreciation, oftentimes when I felt that my attempts to give aid were weak indeed. It was my privilege in the early years of our acquaintance to determine a considerable number of species for Doctor Riddle and to verify some of his determinations. Later I was repaid

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by seeing him grow into such a broad and discriminating knowledge of lichens that I was glad to send to him my whole collections of genera which he was studying for publication. Also his nearness to the Tuckerman herbarium at Harvard made it possible for him to aid me greatly by comparing some of my doubtful specimens there. The letters which I have retained through the years bear evidence of a most cordial friendship, and I was very anxious when I learned of the serious illness of my friend and co-worker and was greatly depressed when word came concerning his untimely death. It seemed extremely sad that a man of such fine training and ability, in a position where he had excellent opportunities, and so thoroughly in love with his work, could not live to complete the task which he was so well prepared to do. It seems hardly possible to become reconciled to this misfortune for him and for us.

It is the lot of those of us who have corresponded widely with native and foreign botanists to know a considerable number of our correspondents only through exchange of letters and published papers. Added to this is sometimes an exchange of photographs. How eager we are whenever opportunity comes for meeting these erstwhile long-distance friends. These experiences are so common that botanists will realize my pleasure when it became certain that I was to spend a month at Harvard in 1915 and have the privilege of a personal acquaintance with my hitherto far-distant friend. Early in the month, there was a week-end visit to the Riddle Home in Wellesley, where Mr. and Mrs. Riddle made me feel very much at home. This visit was filled with enthusiasms such as botanists know very well, the particular field of interest varying of course. Specimens and methods were gone over, and when we were too exhausted for more of this, the town and the college were examined for diversion and information. While passing through various parts of Wellesley meeting citizens and discussing matters of local interest, I learned of Doctor Riddle's outside interests and his usefulness in the community.

He made it a point to come to Cambridge as often as possible while I was there; and it was here, and in his home where he did his microscopic work and made notes, drawings, keys, and descriptions, that my high opinion of his methods and results, obtained through his letters and his published papers, was verified by first-hand knowledge. While at Harvard, I was working on the *Graphidaceae*, and it was my privilege to determine a considerable number of specimens of this family sent to him from Mexico, Bermuda, Jamaica, Porto Rico, and elsewhere. For this I was amply repaid by the help which I received on lichens from other groups. I have regretted very deeply that I was not able to spend more time in the cryptogamic herbarium at Harvard during the lifetime of my teacher, Doctor Farlow; but I had hoped after Doctor Riddle went to Harvard that I might have the pleasure and advantage of working with him in the years when I hope for more leisure.

Here was a man eminently fitted by training, ability, and natural inclination to do work of lasting importance in a field where workers are few and needs urgent. He had a love for systematic lichenology, and this rested on a broad training in biological science and special training in the methods of modern mycology. Several of his minor projects, revealed in our correspondence, may be passed over; but matters of larger import must be noted. In 1916, after the matter had been very strongly urged, Doctor Riddle promised to furnish the manuscript for the *Arthoniaceae* in the North American Flora. I had been working for several years on the *Graphidaceae*, and was greatly pleased that he was to work on the most closely related family. In one of his latest letters he wrote of being at work on the *Arthoniae*. He was also much interested in tropical lichens in general, and American botany has lost much along this line through his early death. Another major project mentioned in one of his letters after returning to Harvard was a manual of the lichens of eastern North America. His position where he had access to the Tuckerman Herbarium made this plan seem especially feasible, and American mycology has lost heavily through his not being able to carry this ambition to completion. Cut down in the prime of life, he still left, in the papers cited below, probably 50 new species and much in the way of critical notes and additions to distribution. Perhaps I should have added to the citations below some notes on contents, but those especially interested may find these in the bibliography of North American botany in the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club.

Inclination would lead me to a more detailed account, but I must close with the question as to what man or what men will take the place of our departed friend and worker. We need both amateurs and men trained as was Doctor Riddle. Let us hope that systematic botany may soon regain some of its temporarily lost prestige and that in this happy time there may come a number of workers able and willing to carry forward the task begun by our departed lichenist.

In closing, I wish to express to Mrs. Riddle and to Mr. Edward B. Chamberlain my thanks for data which have aided in the preparation of this paper.

Doctor Riddle's Botanical Publications

Contributions to the cytology of the *Entomophthoraceae:* preliminary discussion. Rhodora **8**: 67, 68. 1906.

On the cytology of the *Entomophthoraceae*. Proc. Am. Acad. Arts. Sci. **42**: 177–195. pl. 1–3. 1906.

Notothylas orbicularis in Massachusetts. Rhodora **9**: 219, 220. 1907.

Notes on some lichens from the Gaspé Peninsula. Rhodora **11**: 100–103. 1909.

A key to the species and principal varieties of *Cladonia* occurring in New England. Rhodora **11**: 212–214. 1909.

Preliminary lists of New England plants,—XXIII. *Cladoniaceae*. Rhodora **11**: 215–219. 1909.

The North American species of *Stereocaulon*. Bot. Gaz. **50**: 285–304. f. 1–9. 1910.

"The Lichens of Minnesota," a review. Bryologist **13**: 97–100. 1910.

The rediscovery of *Parmelia lophyrea* Bryologist **14:** 35. 1911.

The lichen-flora of the Santa Cruz Peninsula, a review. Bryologist **14:** 6, 7. 1911.

An enumeration of the lichens collected by Clara Eaton Cummings in Jamaica. Mycologia **4:** 125–140. 1912.

Review: A recent contribution to the ecology of mosses. Bryologist **15:** 67–69. 1912.

Report on the lichens in N. L. Britton: The vegetation of Mona Island. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. **2:** 35, 36 and 51–53. 1915.

An undescribed species of *Cetraria.* Bryologist **18:** 17, 28. 1915.

The lichens of Bermuda. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **43:** 145–160. 1916.

Report on the lichens in N. L. Britton: The vegetation of Anegada Island. Mem. New York Bot. Gard. **6:** 579, 580. 1916.

Some noteworthy lichens from Jamaica. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **44:** 321–330. pl. 21. 1917.

The genus *Parmeliopsis* of Nylander. Bryologist **20:** 69–76. f. 1, 2. *pl. 20.* 1917.

Pyrenothrix nigra gen. et sp. nov. Bot. Gaz. **64:** 513–515. *f. 1–4.* 1917.

Some extensions of range. Bryologist **21:** 50. 1918.

Report on the lichens in N. L. Britton: The flora of the American Virgin Islands. Mem. Brooklyn Bot. Gard. **1:** 109–115. *f. 1–3.* 1918.

Chapter on lichens in N. L. Britton: The flora of Bermuda. 470–479. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1918.

William Gibson Farlow. Rhodora **22:** 1–8. 1920.

Observations on the genus *Acrospermum.* Mycologia **12:** 175–181. *pl. 11.* 1920.

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NOTES ABOUT THE DREPANOCLADI OF THE VICINITY OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

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The *Drepanocladi* C. M., formerly known as *Harpidia* Sull., are an interesting and considerable section of the true *Hypna* with a decided preference for an aquatic habitat. The contributions of the late F. Renauld to the Revue Bryologique (1906–1909) and the works of Warnstorf and other German bryologists have of late created a lively interest in these plants. Still, one may wonder why they seem to be rarely collected, or at least rarely discussed in our reviews. May we be allowed to offer an explanation for this seeming neglect?

Drepanocladi, indeed, present peculiar difficulties to collectors, difficulties which may be due to these two reasons: the plants are difficult of access, and not very easily found. They grow, most of them, in wet meadows, marshy places, or deep peat bogs. On this account a special outfit (as rubber boots) and a